

MAY 05 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: 65 ABW

SUBJECT: Bringing non-command sponsored dependents to Lajes Field

1. As of 8 Aug 13, Lajes Field Azores, Portugal is an unaccompanied/dependent-restricted remote base.

2. If you are thinking about bring non-command sponsored dependent (s) with you on your assignment to Lajes here are some points to consider while making your decision.

a. Non-command sponsored dependents are considered visitors to the country of Portugal and require a Passport. If your dependent is not a Portuguese or EU citizen, they will require more than the standard 90-day tourist VISAs you automatically get when you enter the country. They will need to visit the local Portuguese immigration office before the end of the 90 days to request an extension. Extensions come in 90-day increments and, if approved, Airmen may be able to obtain an additional extension for a total of 270 days. There are fees for each application and approved extension. The extensions are not guaranteed. If the VISA expires, the dependent must leave the country.

b. While on a dependent restricted tour, you are authorized Basic Allowance for Housing for your dependent left behind. The dependent's location must be authorized and annotated on the member's PCS orders. Be advised, bringing a non-command-sponsored dependent might change eligibility for Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). A non-command-sponsored dependent may visit the member at Lajes for up to 90 consecutive days without affecting the BAH. If the visit exceeds 90 days, the dependent is considered "residing" at the duty location and the dependent-location BAH must be terminated. BAH would not be terminated if the member has at least one dependent listed on their orders who does not visit for more than 90 consecutive days and remains at the authorized location.

c. Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) is available for those that are authorized and choose to live off base. OHA is a two part entitlement made up of an amount to cover a rented property, and a utility allowance. Having non-command-sponsored dependents does not change the eligibility, but may increase the amount of the utility allowance.

-- Overseas Housing Allowance OHA and BAH eligibility will be evaluated based on individual cases

d. Housing: We have plenty of available housing due to the reduction of dependents. Depending on rank, members might be required to live in dorms or unaccompanied military family housing as available. Unaccompanied housing may be single or double occupancy in a housing unit.

- E1-E5 are required to live either in dorms or in unaccompanied housing
- E6-E9 and Officers have the option of living in unaccompanied housing or off base, unless they are deemed key and essential
- Civilians will be offered an unaccompanied housing unit if available
- In order for non-command-sponsored dependents to reside in unaccompanied housing, the member must request an exception to policy from the wing commander

e. Medical: Non-command-sponsored dependents are only eligible for TRICARE Standard benefits. We will still have a clinic here on Lajes, and medical care will be on a space-available and capability-available basis. The local Hospital in Angra and the Urgent Care Clinic in Praia are great health care treatment facilities, but TRICARE Standard has an annual deductible and a cost-sharing for any treatment outside of an MTF. Also, the member will be responsible for any costs associated with medical transportation should the non-command sponsored dependent need to be moved off the island for treatment. If the dependents are here temporarily, they retain their home location TRICARE Prime for emergency care only. Routine care will be billed under the TRICARE Standard plan discussed above. One final note, TRICARE Prime coverage extends to visitors for only 60 days. Once a person is outside of the TRICARE region for more than 60 days, they automatically convert to a TRICARE Standard coverage. Please contact your TRICARE office for more details.

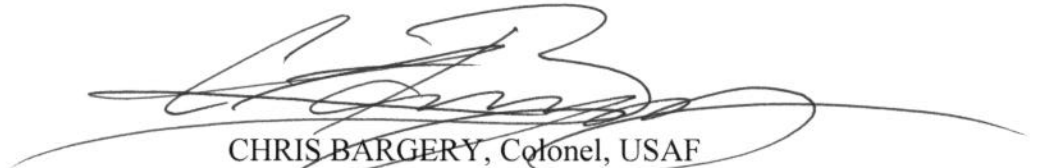
f. Household Goods: Members are entitled to bring up to 10% or 25% of their JFTR-authorized household goods weight limit depending on their rank; this does not change if the member elects to bring non-command-sponsored dependents. Members in the grades of E1-E6 are authorized 10%. Members in the grades of E7-E9, officers, and civilians are authorized 25%. There is no storage available on the island

g. Appliances including washer, dryer, stove/oven, refrigerator, and microwave should not be shipped to Lajes as they are provided for use for the duration of the tour. Additionally, all members are authorized loaner furniture for the duration of the tour. Typical items provided include a bed, dresser, couch, coffee table, dining table, chairs, end table, TV stand or hutch, desk, and bookcase

h. Getting to and from Terceira is not difficult, but does pose some challenges. Commercial air travel is generally through Lisbon or Ponta Delgado, but during the summer there are direct flights to Boston MA; however, these flights can get expensive and can involve an overnight stay in Lisbon. Military airlift travel to and from Lajes Field for non-command sponsored dependents is on a space-available basis only. There are regular flights between Lajes Field and BWI, but space is limited during high PCS season and around holidays. If the non-command-sponsored dependent is travelling without the member, a letter is required from the member's commander authorizing the travel to and from Lajes Field from the dependents' designated residence. Emergency leave will cover the sponsor's travel cost, but non-command sponsored dependents will travel as space-available or at their own cost. See <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/> for space-available travel information.

i. Lajes High School will transition to a virtual high school and start the academic year with 18 students. There will be a traditional K-8 Elementary and Middle School. The Lajes Elementary/High School administrative office can be reached at DSN 535-6207. School-aged non-command sponsored dependents may be eligible to attend the Department of Defense Dependent School on a space-available basis; the sponsor must formally make a request through the school principal. The determination is made by DODDS at the beginning of the school year, approximately 20 Aug 14 for SY14-15. See DoDEA Regulation 1030.1 for space availability details. There are several public and private schools on the island that accept children on a space-available basis as well. The schools teach English as a subject, but instruction is done in Portuguese.

j. We will do our best to help cover your dependents with our Child and Youth Programs, but these services are shrinking and priority is for the command sponsored dependents. Child care and youth programs will be on a space-available basis due to the diminishing dependent population and eligible work force. There are many local nationals that serve the Lajes community as nannies.



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